

## *Steve Westly California State Controller*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***STATE CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY TO AUDIT TROUBLED OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT***

**Sacramento, February 27, 2003** – California State Controller Steve Westly notified the Alameda County Office of Education (COE) that his office will perform a financial review of the Oakland Unified School District (District). The review was requested by COE Superintendent Sheila Jordan.

“The COE has raised serious questions about the past budgeting and accounting practices of the District and is concerned about its fiscal solvency,” said Westly. “My goal is to provide both the COE and the District with independent information and recommendations to restore the District’s financial credibility.”

The Legislature is considering legislation to provide the District with State funding to address a fiscal shortfall estimated to be as high as \$63 million. If the funding is approved, the Controller’s Office would become the District’s financial auditor until the loan is paid back.

“My auditors will be reviewing past financial audits of the District, assessing transfers of funds for compliance with state and federal requirements and providing an assessment of the current and future budget,” said Westly.

The review will begin the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> and results will be provided in phases over the next few months.

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